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Letter dated 16 July 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my report on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), covering the period from 15 November 2014 to 15 May 2015 (S/2015/339).

In my report, I recommended that the periodicity of the renewal of the mandate of UNOCA be increased from 18 months to 36 months, on the basis of the recommendations of the inter-agency strategic review mission to the Office, led by the Department of Political Affairs, from 26 to 28 March 2015. Such an approach would allow UNOCA to cover the current electoral cycle in the subregion, which is scheduled to end in 2018. It would also align the periodicity of the mandate of UNOCA with that of other United Nations regional offices.

In the light of the above, and in line with the request contained in the statement by the President of the Security Council on the situation in Central Africa dated 11 June 2015 (S/PRST/2015/12), which also welcomed the proposals of the strategic review, I recommend that the mandate of UNOCA be extended for a period of three years, from 31 August 2015 until 31 August 2018.

I also submit herewith the draft mandate of UNOCA for the period 2015-2018, elaborating its four core areas of focus, which are to be implemented in close collaboration with the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and other relevant regional and subregional partners (see annex).

UNOCA will also continue to work in close collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa on issues related to maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as the impact of the activities of Boko Haram on countries of the Lake Chad Basin region. In line with the policy of the United Nations, the Office will ensure that gender and human rights are mainstreamed into its activities.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN Ki-moon**

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Annex

Draft mandate of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa for the period 2015-2018

The following objectives are to be implemented by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), in close collaboration with relevant subregional and regional partners:

Objective 1: monitor political developments in Central Africa, carry out good offices and special assignments on behalf of the Secretary-General and enhance subregional capacities for conflict prevention and mediation in countries of the subregion:

(a) Perform good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General, including the international mediation on the crisis in the Central African Republic, as well as in countries approaching elections or facing institutional crisis;

(b) Enhance the capacity for conflict prevention, mediation and peace consolidation of subregional actors, including the Economic Community of Central African States;

(c) Serve as secretariat for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa and assist States in implementing the recommendations of the Committee, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

Objective 2: support United Nations efforts in the subregion as well as regional and subregional initiatives on peace and security:

(a) Promote and support, as appropriate, regional and subregional efforts to address the impact of emerging security threats, including Boko Haram and maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea;

(b) Coordinate the implementation of the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the Lord's Resistance Army (S/2012/481), in close collaboration with the African Union and relevant partners;

(c) Cooperate with subregional organizations, in particular the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and other key partners and assist them, as appropriate, in their promotion of peace and stability in the broader Central African subregion and in the strengthening of their capacities;

Objective 3: enhance coherence and coordination in the work of the United Nations in the subregion on peace and security:

(a) Increase internal United Nations exchanges, collaborations and joint initiatives within the subregion;

(b) Advocate for priorities identified by United Nations entities in the subregion;

Objective 4: advise the Secretary-General and United Nations entities in the region on significant developments in Central Africa:

(a) Undertake regular analysis of and reports on the situation in the countries of the region and regional trends;

(b) Establish a dedicated analytical unit integrated under the Political Affairs Section.